

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10

DLOS-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:WLOWENTHAL:BJD

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

ARA:HARYAN

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O 231512Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 301358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, BOL, PE,PFOR, PBOR

SUBJECT: BOLIVIA'S OUTLET TO THE SEA

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 8594; (B) SANTIAGO 8606

1. AMBASSADOR CAPRILES CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR RYAN TODAY. HE REPORTED THAT AN ENCOURAGING FIRST STEP IN BOLIVIA'S QUEST FOR AN OUTLET TO THE SEA HAD BEEN TAKEN. HIS GOVERNMENT HAD REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT'S OFFER TO CEDE TO BOLIVIA A CORRIDOR ALONG THE PERU-CHILE BORDER TO THE PACIFIC. IT WOULD INCLUDE THE RAILROAD, OIL PIPELINE AND THE ARICA AIRPORT.

2. COMPENSATION TO CHILE WOULD INVOLVE CEDING AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF BOLIVIAN TERRITORY AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS AS DESCRIBED REFTELS.

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3. CAPRILES EXPLAINED THAT IF PERU AGREED, TREATY NEGOTIA-

TIONS BY JOINT BOLIVIA-CHILE COMMISSIONS COULD BEGIN. SUCH NEGOTIATIONS UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD BE LONG AND COMPLEX FOR WHICH HE ASKED U.S. SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT. SINCE BOLIVIA HAS AGREED TO AN EXCHANGE OF TERRITORY WITH CHILE, NOT A RECUPERATION OF TERRITORY, THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT WILL NOT BE POPULAR TO SOME GROUPS IN BOLIVIA. NEVERTHELESS, CAPRILES AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PROPOSAL PRESENTS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO BOLIVIA'S LANDLOCKED STATE.

4. CAPRILES SAID ONCE A TREATY IS REACHED A THIRD PHASE, INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION AND INVESTMENT IN THE AREA WOULD START. HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED U.S. SUPPORT FOR FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE.

5. ROGERS SAID HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE MOMENTOUSNESS OF THE OCCASION AND WAS MOST PLEASED TO KNOW THAT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME WAS NEAR. HE CONGRATULATED THE AMBASSADOR ON PRESIDENT BANZER'S DIPLOMACY. HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER HOW WE COULD BE HELPFUL AND SUGGESTED A PRESS STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE SUBJECT.

6. CAPRILES REPLIED THAT AFTER PERU'S REACTION HAD BEEN RECEIVED HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE USEFUL. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED ROGERS COULD INFLUENCE THE PERUVIAN DECISION IN SUPPORT OF BOLIVIA'S CAUSE.

7. ASSUMING PERU'S REACTION IS FAVORABLE, THE PARTIES MAY WANT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF A U.S. GUARANTY OF THE BORDERS FINALLY DETERMINED. ROGERS SAID NOTHING TO THAT.

COMMENT: CAPRILES SAID THAT HE SOUGHT THE MEETING, ON SHORT NOTICE, AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT BANZER. THIS, AND WHAT HE HAD TO SAY, SUGGEST THAT IT WAS THE OPENING GUN IN A CAMPAIGN TO INVOLVE US MORE INTRICATELY IN THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS, IN PART AS AN INCENTIVE TO PERU TO GO ALONG, IN PART AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE FINAL TREATY. NEEDLESS TO SAY, NO ONE HERE HAS DISCOVERED ANY PARTICULAR REASON WHY WE OUGHT TO

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REACH QUICKLY TO SEIZE THIS NETTLE. KISSINGER

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